

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 FEA-01 AID-05 DRC-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01

ACDA-10 /085 W

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R 101001Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5845

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7389

FROM PAGANELLI EMBASSY DOHA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, QA, XF

SUBJECT: QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON MID-EAST

1. QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL-THANI, WHO RETURNED TO DOHA OCT 1 FROM UNGA WITH INTERIM STOPS IN RABAT AND CAIRO, TOLD ME DURING OCT 7 CONVERSATION THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC RE POSSIBILITY OF PERMANENT PEACE SETTLEMENT IN AREA. ACCORDING SUHAYM, HIS OPTIMISM BASED ON CONTACTS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND IN CAIRO DURING HIS RETURN TRIP.

2. SUHAYM OBSERVED THAT COMBINATION OF SECRETARY'S CONTINUING EFFORTS AND CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SADAT AND FAYSAL SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO TASK OF CATA-
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LYZING SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT US INFLUENCE WITH ISRAEL

AND US RECONGINITION OF CENTRALITY OF PALESTINE ISSUE WERE ADDITIONAL BASICS IN SITUATION. FURTHER RE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, SHAYM SAID HE CONFIDENT US WOULD FIND WAY TO REACH "UNDERSTANDING" WITH PLO WHICH MAJORITY OF ARABS REGARD AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY RE ATTITUDE OF KING HUSSEIN TOWARD PLO, SUHAYM WAS CONFIDENT THAT ARAB SUMMIT WOULD RESOLVE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN HUSSEIN AND THE PLO. SUHAYM WARNED THAT ANY BREAKDOWN IN SETTLEMENT EFFORTS WOULD BRING CHAOS AND RESURGENCE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AREA.

3. SUHAYM EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY DURING HIS STAY IN NEW YORK, ALTHOUGH HE APPRECIATED CRUSHING DEMANDS ON SECRETARY'S TIME. HE SAID HE DID NOT (RPT NOT) GO TO WASHINGTON SINCE HIS ONLY REASON FOR DOING SO WOULD HAVE BEEN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE TALK WITH SECRETARY. SUHAYM REGRETTEED THAT HE HAD LEFT NEW YORK BEFORE SECRETARY'S DINNER FOR ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS. HE TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE AMIR TO RETURN TO QATAR VIA RABAT AND AIRO FOR DISCUSSIONS RE ARAB SUMMIT AND THEREFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK HAD BEEN EARLIER THAN HE HAD PLANNED. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH GROUP FUNCTIONS AS ARAB LEAGUE DINNER WERE NOT (RPT NOT) SATISFACTORY FOR SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH COULD ONLY EFFECTIVELY BE DONE IN PRIVATE MEETING.

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